
GALERIE VAN DEN BERGE

NR. 03 - 2010

CLARY STOLTE

The work of Clary Stolte was very experimental in her first year at Art School. She used materials which don't normally fit into the classic instruments of the painter. She learned to work with paint and form in the Painting Department. Huge figurative works were initiated in thick layers of paint. Although the work had a lot of positive response, once alone in the studio, she felt more and more uncomfortable with these large paintings. They didn't feel hers. She began to reconsider previously learned ideas. She had to start all over but the question was 'at which point?' Eventually she realised that she could return to that 'pure' feeling again, the sensation she felt as a child playing with dessert; yoghurt with a splash of red sauce. Each day the stirring gave a different effect. Looking. Then eating. Working from her original connection with material. The starting point from which her recent work has developed.

Clary Stolte's work is based on three visual items. TRANSPARENCY, VOLUME AND DEPTH.

She uses industrial products in her monochrome images such as: plastic, acrylic emulsion, epoxy resin, wax and PVC. The choice of a colour stems from practicalities rather than artistic consideration. Most substances are transparent and are applied in multiple layers. This creates volume, depth and, depending on the number of layers, transparency together with density.

The search for light, perspective, reflection, shine, contrast, volume and how the painting relates to the wall are all classical issues that cause an enormous experimental sensation in the studio because of the new, inappropriate use of these materials.

Each step in the process is a content search for the essence and form of the painting.

The use of industrial and household products (from plastics to cello tape, sodium silicate, shampoo and medicine) produce questions about durability.

Stolte searches for contact with manufacturers and suppliers but does not always get all information. The results of the uncertain durability are the still growing series 'Unfinished'. In this series of works the viewer can follow the decomposition process. Some of the materials don't harden. They discolour, crack or attract dust. The unstable works bring into question, the so-called eternal value of the art work, but also points to the current consumerism with disposable articles for short term use.

In that sense she also feels connected to the Arte Povera, of the 1970's in the previous century, who used these minimal basic forms and biodegradable cheap materials too. The decline is an essential part of the work for Stolte. The painting like skin. Life and death.

Clary Stolte's studio is a bright, white space where the experiments lie side by side on the floor or on tables. Some works are there for years, still not yet hardened, still evolving. Other works are drying and waiting for their next layer. Only one single piece hangs on the wall.

In the studio small monochrome works arise (or grow); a single object. And here, in the studio, they are also the most in place. Therefore it is not easy for the artist to take these works out of this context and present them in the outside world. Clary Stolte prefers to see her works in the studio, and if possible, outside the studio presented in the most natural way, best represented the studio situation.

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VOLUMESURFACE 2 #5 (COLLECTION STADSGALERIJ HEERLEN/SCHUNK)

YEAR: 2008
DIMENSIONS: 50 X 50 CM
MATERIAL: PAPER

LEFT: **INSTALLATION WITH 5 WORKS (COLLECTION STADSGALERIJ HEERLEN/SCHUNK)**

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UNFINISHED 2 #2 (COLLECTION ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTRE – AMC - AMSTERDAM)

YEAR: 2005
DIMENSIONS: 30 X 30 CM
MATERIAL: SHAMPOO ON COTTON

VARIATION ON TRANSPARENCY DENSITY

YEAR: 2006
DIMENSIONS: 26 X 26 CM
MATERIAL: FIBREGLASS TAPE

DEPTH SURFACE 1C (PRIVATE COLLECTION)

YEAR: 2000
DIMENSIONS: 30 X 30 CM
MATERIAL: ACRYLIC POLYMER EMULSION ON COTTON

DEPTH SURFACE 2 (PRIVATE COLLECTION)

YEAR: 2001
DIMENSIONS: 30 X 30 CM
MATERIAL: ACRYLIC POLYMER EMULSION ON COTTON

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VOLUME 2 #5 (PRIVATE COLLECTION)

YEAR: 2009
DIMENSIONS: 30 X 30 CM
MATERIAL: WAX AND PIGMENT ON COTTON

TRANSPARENCY DENSITY 1 #4 (PRIVATE COLLECTION)

YEAR: 2009
DIMENSIONS: 30 X 30 CM
MATERIAL: WAX AND PIGMENT ON COTTON

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IN 2 DIRECTIONS PERFORATED SQUARE 1 (PRIVATE COLLECTION)

YEAR: 2004
DIMENSIONS: 35 X 35 CM
MATERIAL: PERFORATED PAPER

DEPTH SURFACE 1E (PRIVATE COLLECTION)

YEAR: 2002
DIMENSIONS: 24 X 24 CM
MATERIAL: SILVER THREAD ON COTTON

DEPTH SURFACE 1D (PRIVATE COLLECTION)

YEAR: 2001
DIMENSIONS: 24 X 24 CM
MATERIAL: SILVER THREAD ON COTTON

INFORMATION

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CLARY STOLTE (ENS 1960)

LIVES AND WORKS IN AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS.
A CURRENT CV AND AN OVERVIEW OF WORKS ON:

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